

MONTHLY WILDLAND FIRE WEATHER/FIRE DANGER OUTLOOK

1. REPORTING UNIT: WGBCC

2. DATE: 11/21/03

3. POTENTIAL FOR SERIOUS/CRITICAL FIRE PROBLEMS

THIS COMING MONTH	BELOW NORMAL		NORMAL	X	ABOVE NORMAL	
THIS SEASON	BELOW NORMAL	X	NORMAL	X	ABOVE NORMAL	

COMMENTS: Moderate snow and rain events coupled with much colder temperatures and higher humidity during the month of November has basically brought to an end the 2003 Fire Season in the Western Great Basin.

4. FIRE WEATHER FACTORS:

CURRENT DROUGHT CONDITIONS:

None		MODERATE	X	SEVERE	X	EXTREME	X
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The most recent 12-month Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) for Nevada, valid through the end of October, 2003, is generally "near to slightly below normal (70-100% of normal)" statewide. A better reflection of actual long-term drought conditions, however, is found in the U.S. Drought Monitor (valid November 18, 2003), which ranges from slight dryness to moderate drought along the Sierras and western valleys and severe to exceptional drought across the remaining eastern 2/3's of the state. The U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook from the National Centers for Environmental Prediction expects long term drought conditions to persist statewide though limited improvement will begin to be felt across most of Nevada through February 2004. Thus long-term drought will continue through the winter, though the severity of the drought will continue to lesson across much of the state.

TEMPERATURE/PRECIPITATION OUTLOOK:

Dec PRECIPITATION		Dec TEMPERATURES		PAST 4 WEEKS PRECIPITATION		PAST 4 WEEKS TEMPERATURES	
BELOW		BELOW		BELOW	X	BELOW	X
NORMAL	X	NORMAL	X	NORMAL	X	NORMAL	X
ABOVE		ABOVE		ABOVE		ABOVE	

Precipitation anomalies and outlook:

To date (11/21/03), the month of November has been much wetter than the preceding month with several weak storms crossing the state. While no single storm has produced significant precipitation the succession of storms has brought near normal precipitation amounts to the mountains while valley locations have seen a bit below normal amounts of precipitation. The water year, which began on October 1, 2003, is below average due to a dry October.

Utilizing several long-range weather forecasting products and our own professional insight leads us to the conclusion that December 2003 will start off with above normal precipitation for the first 2 weeks followed by a drying trend during the second half of the month.

Temperature anomalies and outlook:

Temperature anomalies statewide have completely reversed from the month ago period as a succession of cold air masses have moved into the Western Great Basin, bringing normal to below normal conditions statewide.

Our outlook for December 2003 is for near normal temperatures for the entire state.

5. CURRENT FUELS CONDITIONS:

FINE - GRASS STAGE	GREEN		CURED	X		
NEW GROWTH	SPARSE		NORMAL		ABOVE NORMAL	

LIVE FUEL MOISTURE (sage, deciduous, conifer): Measured Values

Sage

Elko (N/A)

Winnemucca (N/A)

Carson City (N/A)

Ely (N/A)

Las Vegas (N/A)

Battle Mountain (N/A)

Conifers

(N/A)

1000-HOUR DEAD FUEL MOISTURE: Measured Values

Northwestern Nevada (N/A)

Central (N/A)

Southern Nevada (N/A)

NORMAL/AVERAGE FUEL MOISTURE FOR THIS TIME OF YEAR: Measured Values

Elko (N/A)

Winnemucca (N/A)

Carson City (N/A)

Ely (N/A)

Las Vegas (N/A)

Battle Mountain (N/A)

6. AVERAGE FIRE OCCURRENCE/ACRES BURNED (to date 5 year average): 1,016
Fires/679,478 Acres

7. ACTUAL OCCURRENCE/ACRES BURNED (to date this year): 802 Fires/17,581 Acres

8. WRITTEN SUMMARY

Moderate snow and rain events coupled with much colder temperatures and higher humidity during the month of November has basically brought to an end the 2003 Fire Season in the Western Great Basin. Historically the Western Great Basin has no significant fire activity during December, thus Fire Potential will be normal for December 2003 as we expect very little or no fire activity.

9. FIRE POTENTIAL MAP

